

WIMBORNE MINSTER URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(INCORPORATING THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR/SURVEYOR)

FOR THE YEAR.....1970

1870

1871

1872

1873

1874

WIMBORNE MINSTER URBAN DISTRICT

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN.....Councillor J.W. Smith

VICE- CHAIRMAN.....Councillor E.H. Markby

COUNCILLORS:-

R.F. Corran

Mrs. M.G. Corran

C.H. Cowdry

S.I. Dennett

A.R. Maiden

F.W.J. Moore

H.V. Purchase

N.L. Rowan

Mrs. F.E. Skidmore

D.S. Upstone

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Dr. G.B. Hopkins, M.B., Ch.B., B.Pharm., D.P.H.

holding appointments of:-

Senior Assistant County Medical Officer.

School Medical Officer.

Medical Officer of Health - Wimborne Minster Urban District.

Medical Officer of Health - Wimborne and Cranborne R.D.C.

Medical Officer of Health - Borough of Blandford Forum

Medical Officer of Health - Blandford Rural District.

contributing roughly:-

Wimborne Minster Urban District.....	$\frac{1}{3}$ day per week
Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District.....	$1\frac{1}{2}$ days per week
Borough of Blandford Forum.....	$\frac{1}{4}$ day per week
Blandford Rural District.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ day per week

Also

Honorary Medical Officer to the Dorset Water Board.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR/SURVEYOR/HOUSING MANAGER.

F. Caddick. M.R.S.H.

M.A.P.H.I.

Area Office,
Health Clinic,
Rowlands Hill.
Wimborne.
Dorset.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present my Annual Report for 1970.

I have given an impression in recent years that the subject of the traditional notifiable diseases could be relegated to a small corner of my Annual Report, and I have therefore to report two minor disappointments in this sphere. Measles continues to trickle on because of a failure to immunise sufficient children, partly due to misplaced prejudice on the part of parents who heard of a few rather sharp reactions to one brand of vaccine and who have not realised that this problem was soon remedied, and partly due to a temporary shortage of supplies occasioned by the remedying of the above problems. Nevertheless, 118 doses were administered with a probable success rate of about 80% to be expected.

The whooping cough vaccine showed signs of losing some of its effectiveness in the field, and subsequent improvements have been made which should show dividends in future years. German Measles vaccine became available early in the year but in very restricted quantity. The policy adopted by the Ministry was to administer what was available to the thirteen year old girls, this age being a compromise between vaccinating as late as possible for maximum effect during the child bearing years, and the necessity to avoid vaccinating during pregnancy. With a further small quantity being available during Autumn a total of 54 girls were vaccinated. This policy will be continued as more vaccine becomes available and in future years fewer babies with severe congenital abnormalities due to the German Measles virus will be born, especially if some parents were less supremely confident that their children had already had German Measles. It has been established that an alleged history of having had German Measles carries with it no guarantee of antibodies to this disease in the blood stream so that confidence in a past history of infection leading to refusal of the vaccine may lead to disaster in a later pregnancy in a few unfortunate women. The basic reason for this confusion is that at least one other virus can closely simulate German Measles.

The above comments illustrate the practical difficulties, including the severe problems of communication, which remain even when a satisfactory medical solution to a pressing problem has been evolved.

Each year I receive a very large form SD 25 from the General Register Office recording the numbers of deaths in the district by sex and age group. It is very salutary to study this document, which I have set out in abbreviated form on page 11 by cause and sex only, in order to convey more succinctly the message. A very quick reference to these few columns reveals the alarming toll of certain diseases, the most striking by far being Ischaemic Heart Disease, or Coronary Thrombosis, claiming 14 males and 11 females. Pinpointing the distribution by age for a larger population is further revealing and I give the combined figures for the Rural and Urban Districts below:-

Cause of Death.	Sex.	35-44.	45-54.	55-64.	65-74.	75 and over
Ischaemic Heart Disease.	M	3	7	13	41	30
	F	1	0	2	16	29
Total All Causes.....	M	5	17	49	97	118
	F	3	6	16	62	128
Percentage due to Ischaemic Heart Disease@.....	M	60	41	26	42	25
	F	33	0	12.5	26	23

The rot starts at 35 though this cause can and does occasionally operate as early as adolescence. The ladies lag behind strikingly and it is not until the 65 to 74 decade that they make much show of catching up and do not in fact catch up until after 75 years by which time there are so many more women than men that they necessarily begin to assume the ascendancy in numbers of deaths by cause.

The Council of World Health Organisation recently stated:-

"I.H.D. or Coronary Artery Disease has reached enormous proportions, striking more and more at younger subjects. It will result in coming years in the greatest epidemic mankind has faced unless we are able to reverse the trend by concentrated research into its cause and prevention".

A vast amount of thought and research has already been devoted to this problem and sufficient is known about it to make a major impact upon the risk for those willing to modify their way of life. This is a sphere in which health education can have a major impact. Another problem of communication and motivation!.

Meanwhile, one aspect of the above problem well within the sphere of interest of the Council concern the significance of the water supply. It has been amply demonstrated that there is a statistical association between mortality, particularly from cardiovascular disease (strokes and coronary disease) and the softness and hardness of drinking water, the harder the better for health. Suggestive evidence has recently been advanced that altering the degree of hardness for any reason is followed by the change in the incidence of cardiovascular disease which would be expected on the basis of the above observation.

It has for long been argued that the softening of water supplies is wasteful since much of it is used for purposes for which the degree of hardness is immaterial and that the advent of detergents has further diminished the practical advantages of soft water. Even in the bath where most of us stick to soap (even here the children often prefer bubble baths!), the affluent society could afford bath salts to soften the water.

This leaves the effect of hard water on domestic and industrial boilers as the only substantial remaining benefit of softening water, to be balanced against the cost of the process and the cost to health.

It is easier never to start something rather than to stop it once started, and on this basis it is now a **retrograde** step to think in terms of instituting softening processes on hard water supplies.

The following table gives relevant details of the various supplies distributed in East Dorset:-

<u>Total Hardness of Water Supplies in East Dorset</u>		
<u>in ppm</u>		
<u>Stanbridge</u>	Wimborne and Cranborne R.D.C.....	250
<u>Walford Bridge</u>	Wimborne Urban District	
	before softening.....	290
	after softening.....	180
<u>Corfe Mullen</u>	Wimborne and Cranborne R.D.C.	
	before softening.....	250
	after softening.....	140
<u>Sturminster Marshall</u> .		
	Wimborne and Cranborne R.D.C.....	260
<u>Black Lane</u>	Borough of Blandford Forum.....	260
<u>Milborne St. Andrew</u> .		
	Blandford R.D.C.....	250

The order of benefit conferred by hard water in comparison with soft water is a reduction in the rate of cardiovascular mortality of about one fifth.

That veteran amongst complaints, the fouling of pavements by dogs, continues to feature from time to time in the local and national press. Byelaws are almost useless as a remedy for this disgusting state of affairs owing to the difficulty of obtaining witnesses, and indeed publicity is the only current remedy of any real use to a Local Authority; Britain is the most dog ridden nation in the world, cats are even more numerous though far more fastidious. There are $3\frac{1}{2}$ million dogs and 4 million cats in Great Britain and owning a dog or even two dogs is becoming "de rigueur",

There is a widespread belief that it is good for children to be taught responsibility for the humane care of dumb animals but some pet experts say that smaller pets such as white mice and guinea pigs are more suitable for children. Many children are actively frightened of dogs. Dogs are put forward as many old peoples' indispensable companions but this is only infrequently the case, many old people find their pets become increasingly burdensome, but once having become attached to them, cannot resolve the burden:-

There is sorrow enough in the natural way
From men and women to fill our day:
But when we are certain of sorrow in store,
Why do we always arrange for more?
Brothers and Sisters I bid you beware
Of giving your heart to a dog to tear."

- The Power of the Dog - Kipling.

We are so accustomed to the fouling of public places by dogs that we fail to notice it just as we fail to hear the tick of a clock, but it would be salutary if all of us closely observed the pavements of our local town and really observed the degree of pollution. Nearly every shop front after a spell of dry weather reveals the dark stain of dried dogs' urine trickling across the pavement, and frequently worse. The blind, the old, the crippled, the young and the fit tread this excrement into cars and homes either visibly and offensively or at least microscopically and it is worth while considering whether this offence stops at the aesthetic. Dogs are fairly healthy creatures but they can convey disease.

There is currently advancing westwards across Europe at about 30 to 60 km a year an epizootic of rabies, a disease from the menace of which we have been free for very many years. The main vector amongst animals is the fox but the dog is the main vector of human disease, not only by actual bites but also by saliva from an infected animal, a less obvious risk. The disease has already entered Belgium and France and is expected on the Channel Coast by 1975. The channel has many times protected us from invasion but it is a moot point whether it will stop rabies, especially since there is known dog smuggling. If it does not, then the bite of a dog will assume vastly more significance than it has previously during

this century. There would have to be instituted a policy of vaccinating against rabies all dogs, and in practice this would be difficult to organise and many dogs would escape. This alone is a practical reason for arresting the dog population explosion. Other diseases transmitted by dogs are Hydatidosis, Toxocariasis, Salmonellosis, Leptospirosis, Tetanus, Listeriosis, Pasteurellosis and Ringworm.

Hydatidosis is a serious worm disease much more prevalent in sheep dogs and dogs having access to sheep country than in town dogs. The dog harbours the worm and transmits larvae to human beings via its excreta. There are probably several hundred cases at any one time in Gt. Britain of infection of human beings by the cystic stage in the life cycle, a condition the outlook for which is much the same as cancer.

Toxocariasis is rather similar and very recent evidence suggests that tiny cysts in humans stemming from this fairly common worm infestation in dogs and cats may be responsible for some hitherto inexplicable cases of epilepsy.

Salmonellosis is the condition of infection by one of the hundreds of salmonella food poisoning germs from which any animal can suffer, and any animal can transmit, including dogs, by faecal contamination of the environment.

Leptospirosis is a serious illness characterised by jaundice and kidney damage, commonly infecting dogs, the reservoir normally being rats. Dog bites usually necessitate preventive steps against the acquisition of tetanus.

Listeriosis is a meningeal infection transmissible from dogs and pasteurellosis is an infection which may similarly be conveyed from a dog by scratching, biting or licking. Ringworm is often transmitted by dogs either directly or via fabrics against which they commonly lie, such as the frills round a fireside chair.

It may very well be the case that death and injury to human beings from road accidents caused by dogs exceed in importance all the above infections, while injury in the home due to tripping over dogs, especially in old people, is worthy of mention.

There are other disadvantages. They convey dirt into homes, sometimes exhibit embarrassing behaviour, are frequently in the way, ~~are~~ a source of expense or extra nuisance at holiday times and have a considerable impact upon other people. Postmen could legitimately enlarge upon this aspect. The problem of barking dogs is a frequent source of friction amongst neighbours. They often become smelly, are a major trial to owners and others from mating urges, do damage to the fabric of the home, especially when puppies. All things considered it is rather remarkable that there are so many dogs but there are many pressures, not least the lovable little creatures romping in the windows of pet shops. A popular B.B.C. Childrens' programme ardently and permanently puts out powerful propaganda in favour of dog owning. One of the wholly admirable young actors

on this programme recently announced that puppies should be taken out to a piece of waste ground at stated and fairly frequent intervals, glossing over the implications of this statement, what happens when there is not a handy piece of waste land, what about other peoples children who play on that same piece of waste land, who takes the animal out when the children are at school, and when they are on holiday and have lost interest?.

Many dog owners are unwilling or unable to devote the time to "exercising" their animals where their excrement will cause least offence to others, and so combine this chore with their shopping, with the inevitable result that the pavement outside food shops may bear a marked contrast to the conditions required by the Food Hygiene Regulations within them.

The purpose of my diatribe is to appeal for support for a substantial increase in dog licences. A tax was first raised on dogs in 1796 varying with the type of dog, more for sporting dogs than others probably to deter poaching. After the French Wars the rates were fixed in 1812 at £1 for a greyhound, 14/- for any other sporting dog or one kept by a person keeping two or more, (what an excellent idea?), and 8/- for others. In 1840, 10% was added to these rates, and in 1853 the rate was consolidated at 12/- per dog, with certain exemptions. In 1867, a generous Government slashed the duty to 5/- but in 1878, only 11 years later, a 50% increase to 7/6d was imposed, and there, for nearly 100 years, the figure has remained.

Would it not therefore be reasonable to impose a tax to take account of inflation?. Seven and six in 1900 is now worth three pounds.

There could be suitable exemptions and the tax could be raised in increments so as to bear not too hardly on existing dog owners and give people warning of their future commitments, many would without doubt opt for guinea pigs, charming clean little creatures, which do not cause road accidents!. The proceeds could form a local tax which would cover the employment of a dog warden to round up strays, check tax evasion, and administer the bye-laws on the fouling of pavements. Some such officials exist already.

There follows the report of the Public Health Inspector and the customary tabulated information.

OCTOBER, 1971.

D. B. K. K.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SECTION A

Area in acres..... 653
Population as estimated by Registrar General..... £4,590
Estimated number of inhabited houses at 31/12/70..... 1,622
Rateable value at 1st April 1970..... £258,836
Estimated product of 1d rate on 1st April 1970 £1,050

AS SUPPLIED BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL

<u>LIVE BIRTHS.</u>	<u>MALES.</u>	<u>FEMALES.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Total.....	40	39	79
Legitimate.....	36	35	71
Illegitimate.....	4	4	8

DEATHS

Deaths - all ages.....	42	40	82
------------------------	----	----	----

	<u>Wimborne Urban District.</u>	<u>England & Wales.</u>	<u>Admin. Cnty</u>
Standardised Birth Rate...	17.2	16. 0	16.1
Standardised Death Rate...	17.9	11. 7	10.7

COMPARABILITY FACTORS.

Births..... 1.18
Deaths..... .77

SECTION B

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Ambulance Service is provided by the Dorset County Council. Control is centralised in Dorchester and the service operates from the Ambulance Station in Hanham Road.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

This is attached to the Poole General Hospital and provides an excellent free service for the bacteriological examination of human specimens, food, milk and water.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

The County Council provided an Infant Welfare Clinic in Wimborne every fortnight. This is held at the Health Clinic, Rowlands Hill.

HOME HELP SERVICE

The local organiser for the Urban and Rural Districts of Wimborne attends to the detailed administration of this valuable service which has grown steadily since its inception. The organiser is based at the Ferndown Health Clinic and may be telephoned from 9 to 10.30 a.m. from Monday to Friday

SECTION C

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Tuberculosis..... 1
Measles..... 1

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of the year the number of cases in the Tuberculosis Register were as follows:-

PULMONARY
Males 6
Females 4

NON-PULMONARY
Males Nil
Females 1

SECTION D

STATISTICAL TABLES - 1970

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALE	FEMALE
OTHER INFECTIVE AND PARASITIC DISEASES	1	-
MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, STOMACH	1	-
MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, INTESTINE	1	1
MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, LUNG, BRONCHUS	3	-
MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, BREAST		1
OTHER MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS	-	4
ANAEMIAS	1	-
CHRONIC RHEUMATIC HEART DISEASE	1	-
ISCHAEMIC HEART DISEASE	14	11
OTHER FORMS OF HEART DISEASE	2	4
CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASE	7	7
OTHER DISEASES OF CIRCULATORY SYSTEM	4	5
INFLUENZA	1	-
PNEUMONIA	2	3
PEPTIC ULCER	2	-
NEPHRITIS AND NEPHROSIS	-	1
HYPERPLASIA OF PROSTATE	1	
OTHER DISEASES, GENITO-URINARY SYSTEM	-	1
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS	-	1
ALL OTHER ACCIDENTS	1	1
<u>TOTAL ALL CAUSES</u>	42	40

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

TABLE OF VISITS FOR THE YEAR 1970 including Notices served and
 complied with
 (VISITS INCLUDE THOSE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANT ON PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS)

	VISITS	NOTICES SERVED		
		INFORMAL	FORMAL	COMPLIED including those from previous year which were not complied at the end of 1969
PUBLIC HEALTH ACT:				
Nuisance Investigation				
(a) Visits on Complaint	24	4	2	2
(b) Follow up Visits	18			
Accummulations and Dumping of refuse	11	2		2
Drainage, sewerage etc	84	1		
Ponds, Ditches, Streams	5		5	5
Safety matters	9	4		5
Bin inspections	25	1		33
Refuse collection	106			
Refuse Disposal	73			
Public Conveniences	7			
Street Cleaning	15			
Water Sampling	3			
Infectious diseases	3			
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT:				
Food Inspections	6			
Food complaint investigations	4	4		
Food Hygiene				
General premises	7			
School Kitchens	4	1		1
Markets, Stalls, Vehicles	47	14		11
Imported Foods	5			
		12		
				HOUSING ACTS:

	VISITS	NOTICES SERVED		COMPLIED including those from previous year which were not complied at the end of 1969
		INFORMAL	FORMAL	
HOUSING ACTS:				
Primary inspections	13	1	3	3
Re-inspections	11			
Clearance area visits	12			(18 houses demolished)
Visits re Improvement Grants	22			(10 Standard grants approved)
Visits re Qualification Certificate	1			(1 Qual. Cert. issued)
Demolition control	6			
Council House repairs	78			
Council House Management	192			
OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT:				
General inspections	35	10		9
Re-visits	25			
Accident investigations	1			
PEST ACT VISITS:				
Rats and Mice	48			
Other Pests	36			
CLEAN AIR ACT VISITS	5	1	2	2
FACTORIES ACT VISITS	1			
CIVIC AMENITIES ACT VISITS	13	1		1
PET ANIMAL ACT	2			
MISCELLANEOUS VISITS	38			
TOTALS	995	44	12	74

FACTORIES

FACTORIES: The following are particulars required to be furnished under the Factories Act for the year 1970.

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
(1) Factories in which Section 1.2. 3.4.6. are enforceable by Local Authorities	3	-	-	-
(2) Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforceable by the L.A.	38	1	-	-
	41	1	-	-

SHOPS AND OFFICES ACT: The following is the return made to the Ministry of Labour for the year 1970.

CLASS OF PREMISES	PREMISES REGISTERED DURING THE YEAR	TOTAL REGISTERED AT THE END OF YEAR	NO. OF EMPLOYED PERSONS	REGISTERED PREMISES HAVING GENERAL INSPECTION DURING YEAR
Offices	7	52	346	19
Retail Shops	2	79	305	32
Warehouses	-	4	8	1
Catering Establishments	-	7	28	3
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:	9	142	+687	55

+296 Males
391 Females

THE BOURNEMOUTH AND DISTRICT
WATER COMPANY
WATER ANALYSIS

Sample. WIMBORNE U.D.C.

B. Coliform P.N. in 100 ml.	0
Agar Cultures 24 hours at 37°C	0
" " 48 hours at 37°C	0
" " 72 hours at 22°C	1
Cl. Welchii Reaction - Absent in	100 ml
Colour (Burgess Scale)	4
Filtrability Index.	-
pH	7.97
Electrical Conductivity at 20°C	388
Residual NH Cl	.10

2

Results in P.P.M

Chlorine in Chlorides.	24
Nitrogen in Nitrates.	1.25
Nitrogen in Nitrites.	.0094
Free Ammonia.	.097
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	.08
Albuminoid Ammonia	.073
Albuminoid Nitrogen	.058
Oxygen Absorbed (4 hours at 37°C)	.29
Dissolved Oxygen	7.66
Free Carbon Dioxide	3.5
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	156
Silica as SiO ₂	13.6
Phosphates as P ₂ O ₅	.06
Iron as Fe	.03
Suspended Solids.	-
Total Dissolved Solids.	260
Total Hardness.	198
Carbonate Hardness.	156
Noncarbonate Hardness.	42

THE BOURNEMOUTH AND DISTRICT WATER COMPANY
Mineral Analysis
Parts per Million.

Sample:- Wimborne Urban District.

Ca.	Mg.	Na.	K.	CO ₃	SO ₄	Cl	NO ₃	SiO ₃	Probable Combinations.	
62.4				93.6					Calcium Carbonate.	156.00
7.6					18.24				" Sulphate.	25.84
									" Chloride.	
									" Nitrate.	
									Magnesium Carbonate.	
	4.50				17.76				" Sulphate	22.26
	1.02					2.98			" Chloride	4.00
									" Nitrate	
									Sodium Carbonate	
									" Sulphate	
		13.64				21.02			" Chloride.	34.66
		0.36					0.97		" Nitrate.	1.33
									" Silicate	
									Potassium Carbonate	
									" Sulphate	
									" Chloride	
			1.70				4.57		" Nitrate	6.27
									" Silicate	
									Other Silicates as SiO ₂	13.60
									Ferric Oxide	0.04
Total.....										264.00
Total solids dried at 180°C										260.00

